

# WEIKLE & Co.

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

June 30, 2016

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> St, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: WC Docket No. 14-58  
FCC Form 481 – Carrier Annual Reporting  
Ellerbe Telephone Company  
Request for Confidential Treatment

Request that Information Submitted to the Commission be Withheld from Public Inspection Pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §0.459 and 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(4): Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan Progress Report included in FCC Form 481

Dear Ms. Dortch:

This FCC Form 481- Carrier Annual Reporting is being submitted on behalf of Ellerbe Telephone Company (“Ellerbe” or “Company”) in accordance with FCC Rules 54.313 and 54.422. This version is the Redacted – For Public Inspection version.

Ellerbe, by its authorized representative, hereby requests confidential treatment of two attachments to its FCC Form 481: (1) the five-year service quality improvement plan progress report and (2) the financial annual report, both of which are redacted in the ECFS submission. The request for confidential treatment of the five-year plan progress report is being made pursuant to Section 0.459 of the Commission’s rules and Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). The request for confidential treatment of the financial annual report is being made pursuant to the FCC’s March 22, 2016 *Protective Order* in WC Docket Nos. 10-90 and 14-58. These attachments contain competitively sensitive data that Ellerbe maintains as confidential and does not normally make available to the public. Release of this information would have a substantial negative impact on the Company.

## **Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan Progress Report**

Pursuant to Section 0.459 of the Commission’s rules and Exemption 4 of FOIA, Ellerbe requests that the text and data extracted from its five-year service quality improvement plan progress report be withheld from public inspection because it contains competitively sensitive commercial and financial information that the Company maintains as confidential. Public availability of this information would have a substantial negative impact on the Company.

151 SPRING STREET NW  
CONCORD, NC 28025-4749

JERRY L. WEIKLE  
*President*

jweikle@windstream.net  
704.699.9451

In accordance with Section 0.459 of the Commission's rules, the following information is provided in support of this request:

***(1) Identification of the specific information for which confidential treatment is sought:***

The FCC Form 481 – Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan Progress Report Information contained in the Attachment for Line 112. Confidential treatment is requested sought for all information in the five-year plan progress report since it contains current and proposed details about the network and costs.

***(2) Identification of the Commission proceeding in which the information was submitted or a description of the circumstances giving rise to the submission:***

The information was submitted in WC Docket No. 14-58 as an attachment to the FCC Form 481- the Carrier Annual Reporting Data Collection Form. Section 100 of the FCC Form 481 requires incumbent local exchange carriers receiving high cost support to attach a progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan, pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §54.313(a)(1).

***(3) Explanation of the degree to which the information is commercial or financial, or contains a trade secret or is privileged:***

The five-year service quality improvement plan progress report contains detailed information on the Company's customer information, broadband capabilities, and planned capital investments and expenses for its network to improve service quality, service coverage, and/or service capacity. A map of the Company's service area detailing progress toward meeting broadband deployment targets at the wire center level is also contained. This is closely guarded and privileged information that the Company does not make publicly available.

***(4) Explanation of the degree to which the information concerns a service that is subject to competition:***

This information contains details about plans and completed network upgrades for voice and broadband offered by the Company. Both voice and broadband services are subject to competition. There are competitors in the Company's service area including various wireless service providers.

***(5) Explanation of how disclosure of the information could result in substantial competitive harm:***

Disclosure of the information contained in the five-year plan progress report would provide competitors with detailed information regarding the Company's customer information, existing broadband capabilities, and its recent and planned network

investments that improve service quality, coverage, and/or capacity for customers. This would give competitors valuable confidential information with which to develop their own strategies for investing in the service area, thereby bringing substantial competitive harm to the Company.

***(6) Identification of any measures taken by the submitting party to prevent unauthorized disclosure:***

The Company has continually treated the extracted information in its five-year plan progress report as confidential and carefully controls the information to protect it from competitors. Access to the information is limited to employees that require it and to non-employees with confidentiality obligations such as lenders, consultants, auditors, and attorneys. In addition, when such information is required to be submitted to a state regulatory commission it has been filed as confidential information which is not made available to the public.

***(7) Identification of whether the information is available to the public and the extent of any previous disclosure of the information to third parties:***

The redacted information in the five-year plan progress report is not available to the public. Third-party access is limited as described in item (6) above.

***(8) Justification of the period during which the submitting party asserts that material should not be available for public disclosure:***

The Company requests that the extracted information be withheld from public inspection indefinitely. The information in the five-year plan progress report provides details about the Company's most recent network upgrades in relation to its previously submitted service quality improvement plan. It also contains information about planned network improvements during the five-year period ending 2019. This information would provide a very useful baseline for competitors for several years beyond that period.

***(9) Any other information that the party seeking confidential information treatment believes may be useful in assessing whether its request for confidentiality should be granted:***

Exemption 4 of FOIA shields from public disclosure commercial or financial information obtained from a person that is privileged or confidential. Based on the responses provided above, the information in question satisfies this test.

**Financial Annual Report**

Section 3005 of FCC Form 481 requires a privately-held rate-of-return carrier receiving high cost support to attach a full and complete annual report of the company's financial condition and operations pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §54.313(f)(2). Ellerbe seeks confidential treatment of its financial annual report pursuant to the March 22, 2016 *Protective Order* in WC Docket

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
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Nos. 10-90 and 14-58.<sup>1</sup> The *Protective Order* specifically covers information filed pursuant to 47 C.F.R. §54.313(f)(2).

A paper version of this letter along with the Form 481 containing confidential information is being filed with the Office of the Secretary. This REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION copy is being submitted electronically through ECFS.

If there are any questions, I can be reached at 704.699.9451.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jerry Weikle". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jerry Weikle  
Consultant to Ellerbe Telephone Company

Attachment

**FCC Form 481 - Carrier Annual Reporting  
Data Collection Form**FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data	Jerry Weikle
<035>	Contact Telephone Number: Number of the person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address: Email of the person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net
Form Type		54.313 and 54.422

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**(100) Service Quality Improvement Reporting  
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net

<110>	Has your company received its ETC certification from the FCC?	(yes / no ) <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
	If your answer to Line <110> is yes, do you have an existing §54.202(a) "5	
<111>	year plan" filed with the FCC?	(yes / no ) <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>

If your answer to Line <111> is yes, please file a progress report, on line <112> delineating the status of your company's existing § 54.202(a) "5 year plan" on file with the FCC, as it relates to your provision of voice telephony service.

<112> Attach Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan or, in subsequent years, your annual progress report filed pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(1). If your company is a CETC which only receives frozen support, your progress report is only required to address voice telephony service.

230478NC112.pdf

Name of Attached Document

Please select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 112, contains a progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan pursuant to §54.202(a). The information shall be submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate.

- <113> Maps detailing progress towards meeting plan targets
- <114> Report how much universal service (USF) support was received
- <115> How much (USF) was used to improve service quality and how support was used to improve service quality
- <116> How much (USF) was used to improve service coverage and how support was used to improve service coverage
- <117> How much (USF) was used to improve service capacity and how support was used to improve service capacity
- <118> Provide an explanation of network improvement targets not met in the prior calendar year.

Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes

## FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> jweikle@windstream.net

No

**(300) Unfulfilled Service Request  
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net

<300> Unfulfilled service request (voice) 

0

<310> Detail on attempts (voice) 

Name of Attached Document

<320> Unfulfilled service request (broadband) 

0

<330> Detail on attempts (broadband) 

Name of Attached Document



(400) Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net
<400>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report voice complaints (zero or greater) for voice telephony service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize. Offered only fixed voice	
<410>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed voice	0 . 0
<420>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile voice	
<430>	Select from the drop-down list to indicate how you would like to report end-user customer complaints (zero or greater) for broadband service in the prior calendar year for each service area in which you are designated an ETC for any facilities you own, operate, lease, or otherwise utilize. Offered only fixed broadband	
<440>	Complaints per 1000 customers for fixed broadband	0 . 0
<450>	Complaints per 1000 customers for mobile broadband	

(500) Compliance With Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules Data Collection Form		FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net
<500>	Certify compliance with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules	Yes
		230478NC510 .pdf
<510>	Descriptive document for Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	

<b>(600) Functionality in Emergency Situations</b>		FCC Form 481
<b>Data Collection Form</b>		OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
		July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net
<600>	Certify compliance regarding ability to function in emergency situations	Yes
<610>	Descriptive document for Functionality in Emergency Situations	230478NC610.pdf

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FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

[illegible]



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**(800) Operating Companies**

## Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net
<810>	Reporting Carrier	Ellerbe Telephone Company
<811>	Holding Company	Not Applicable
<812>	Operating Company	Ellerbe Telephone Company

[illegible]

<b>(900) Tribal Lands Reporting</b> <b>Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	230478
<015> Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020> Program Year	2017
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net

<900> Does the filing entity offer tribal land services? (Y/N) No

<910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves

<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation

Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes, No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached document(s), on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

Select Yes or No or Not Applicable

**(1000) Voice and Broadband Service Rate Comparability  
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net

<1000> Voice services rate comparability certification Yes

<1010> Attach detailed description for voice services rate comparability compliance 230478NC1010.pdf

Name of Attached Document

<1020> Broadband comparability certification Yes - Pricing is no more than the most recent applicable benchmark announced by the Wireline Competition Bureau

<1030> Attach detailed description for broadband comparability compliance 230478NC1030.pdf

Name of Attached Document



<b>(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481
	OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819
	July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net

<1100> Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Y/N)

<1130> Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).

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## (1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers Lifeline Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net

230478NC1210.pdf

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

- |  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <1221> Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1222> Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan,  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1223> Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan.  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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**(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation**

FCC Form 481

**Data Collection Form**

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

*Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers*

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net

Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

**Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting**

<p>&lt;2010&gt; 2nd Year Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)(i) - Note that for the July 1 2016 certification, this applies to Round 2 recipients of Incremental Support</p> <p>&lt;2011&gt; 3rd Year Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)(ii) - Note that for the July 1 2016 certification, this applies to Round 1 recipients of Incremental Support</p> <p>&lt;2022&gt; Recipient certifies, representing year two after filing a notice of acceptance of funding pursuant to 54.312(c), that the locations in question are not receiving support under the Broadband Initiatives Program or the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program for projects that will provide broadband with speeds of at least 4 Mbps/1Mbps - 54.313(b)(2)(i). Round 2 recipients only.</p> <p>&lt;2023&gt; The attachment on line 2024 includes a statement of the total amount of capital funding expended in the previous year in meeting Connect America Phase I deployment obligations, accompanied by a list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent. This covers year two - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.</p> <p>&lt;2024A&gt; Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?</p> <p>&lt;2024B&gt; Attach list of census blocks indicating where funding was spent in year two - 54.313(b)(2)(ii). Round 2 recipients only.</p> <p>&lt;2025A&gt; Round 1 or Round 2 Recipient of Incremental Support?</p> <p>&lt;2025B&gt; Attach geocoded Information for Phase I milestone reports (Round 1 for year three and Round 2 for year two) - Connect America Fund , WC Docket 10-90, Report and Order, FCC 13-</p> <p>&lt;2015&gt; 2016 and future Frozen Support Certification 47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4)</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>	<p>Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div> <p>Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px; width: 100%;"></div>
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(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)

FCC Form 481

Data Collection Form

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

July 2013

## Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support {47 CFR § 54.313(d)}

<2016> Certification support used to build broadband

## Connect America Phase II Reporting {47 CFR § 54.313(e)}

<2017A> Connect America Fund Phase II recipient?

<2017B> Attach information for Phase II - 54.313(e)(1) - list of geocoded locations already meeting the 54.309 public interest obligations at the end of calendar year 2015 and total amount of Phase II support, if any, the price

Name of Attached Document Listing  
Required Information

cap carrier used for capital expenditures in 2015.

<2018> Attach the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the carrier newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year - 54.313(e)(2)(ii)

Name of Attached Document Listing  
Required Information

<2019> Recipient certifies that it bid on category one telecommunications and Internet access services in response to all FCC Form 470 postings seeking broadband service that meets the connectivity targets for the schools and libraries universal service support program for eligible schools and libraries located within any area in a census block where the carrier is receiving Phase II model-based support, and that such bids were at rates reasonably comparable to rates charged to eligible schools and libraries in urban areas for comparable offerings - 54.313(e)(2)(v)

<2020> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 40% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2017 - 54.313(e)(3)

<2021> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 60% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2018 - 54.313(e)(4)

<2026> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 80% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2019 - 54.313(e)(5)

<2027> Recipient certifies that it offered broadband meeting the requisite public interest obligations specified in §54.309 to 100% of its supported locations in the state on December 31, 2020 - 54.313(e)(6)

(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net

Complete the items below to note compliance with five year service quality plan (pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.202(a)) and, for privately held carriers, ensuring compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

(3009)	Progress Report on 5 Year Plan Carrier certifies to 54.313(f)(1)(iii)		
(3010A)	Milestone Certification {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i)}	Yes - Attach Certification	
(3010B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	230478NC3010.pdf
(3012A)	Community Anchor Institutions {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii)}	No - No New Community Anchors	
(3012B)	Please Provide Attachment	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	
(3013)	Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier {47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2)}	(Yes/No)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
(3014)	If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report	(Yes/No)	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
(3015)	Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached PDF, on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires: Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3016)	Document(s) with Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(3017)	If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	230478NC3017.pdf
(3018)	If the response is no on line 3014, is your company audited?	(Yes/No)	<input type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/>
(3019)	If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains: Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3020)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3021)	Management letter and/or audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit.		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3022)	If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains: Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3023)	Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3024)	Underlying information subjected to an officer certification.		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3025)	Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows		<input type="checkbox"/>
(3026)	Attach the worksheet listing required information	Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information	

**(3005) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)**

FCC Form 481

**Data Collection Form**

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net

REDACTED -- FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

**Financial Data Summary**

(3027) Revenue

(3028) Operating Expenses

(3029) Net Income

(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)

(3031) Total Assets

(3032) Total Debt

(3033) Total Equity

(3034) Dividends

REDACTED -- FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

<010>	Study Area Code	230478
<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020>	Program Year	2017
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net

4005 Rural Broadband Experiment

Authorized Rural Broadband Experiment (RBE) recipients must address the certification for public interest obligations, provide a list of newly served community anchor institutions, and provide a list of locations where broadband has been deployed.

Public Interest Obligations – FCC 14-98 (paragraphs 26-29, 78)

Please address Line 4001 regarding compliance with the Commission’s public interest obligations. All RBE participants must provide a response to Line 4001.

4001. Recipient certifies that it is offering broadband to the identified locations meeting the requisite public interest obligations consistent with the category for which they were selected, including broadband speed, latency, usage capacity, and rates that are reasonably comparable to rates for comparable offerings in urban areas?

Community Anchor Institutions – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 79)

4003a. RBE participants must provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which they newly deployed broadband service in the preceding calendar year. On this line, please respond (yes – attach new community anchors, no – no new anchors) to indicate whether this list will be provided.

If yes to 4003A, please provide a response for 4003B.

4003b. Provide the number, names and addresses of community anchor institutions to which the recipient newly began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

Broadband Deployment Locations – FCC 14-98 (paragraph 80)

4004a. Attach a list of geocoded locations to which broadband has been deployed as of the June 1st immediately preceding the July 1st filing deadline for the FCC Form 481.

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

4004b. Attach evidence demonstrating that the recipient is meeting the relevant public service obligations for the identified locations. Materials must at least detail the pricing, offered broadband speed and data usage allowances available in the relevant geographic area.

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

## REDACTED -- FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

<b>Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	--

<010> Study Area Code	230478
<015> Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020> Program Year	2017
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier: ELLERBE TEL CO	
Signature of Authorized Officer: CERTIFIED ONLINE	Date 06/30/2016
Printed name of Authorized Officer: dan bennett	
Title or position of Authorized Officer: president	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer: 9106522221 ext.	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier: 230478	Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2016
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	



# REDACTED -- FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

<b>Certification - Agent / Carrier Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
---	--

<010> Study Area Code	230478
<015> Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
<020> Program Year	2017
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net

## TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I certify that (Name of Agent) _____ is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent:	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date:
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

## TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Name of Authorized Agent Firm:	
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Date:
Name of Authorized Agent Employee:	
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent	
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

## Attachments

Ellerbe Telephone  
Annual Update 2016 - Initial Five Year Service Quality Improvement Plan  
For the Calendar Years 2015-2019  
Line 112

## Discussion

Ellerbe Telephone is an ETC designated by the North Carolina Utilities Commission and previously submitted its initial five year service quality improvement plan (Plan) as required by 47 CFR § 54.313(a)(1) and 54.202 (a)(1)(ii). Ellerbe Telephone is an incumbent carrier serving a single exchange in the state of North Carolina, with served as of 12/31/2015. Ellerbe Telephone is a rate-of-return (RoR) regulated carrier.

The initial five year plan represented Ellerbe Telephone's ongoing efforts to expand high quality, reasonably-priced broadband services throughout its service area.

The Plan presented included expenditures not directly tied to "improvements or upgrades" of Ellerbe Telephone's network, such as amounts for the maintenance and upkeep of existing telecommunications plant. In order for the Commission to accurately consider the capital and operating expenditures as related to and supported by the federal universal service programs, these types of costs are critical for such an understanding.

## Initial Five Year Service Quality Improvement and Investment Plan

Ellerbe Telephone's service quality improvement and investment plan consisted of two major components: (1) capital expenditures it forecasted were necessary to meet the voice and broadband public interest obligations as adopted by the Commission, service quality and network build out objectives, and general upkeep and maintenance of its network; and (2) operating expenditures it forecasted were necessary to meet the same obligations.

As shown on the following pages, Ellerbe Telephone's plan is to place additional route to serve homes and businesses. This will allow customers to receive a more reliable service and faster broadband speeds. Ellerbe Telephone has plans to timing has been adjusted because of industry uncertainties. Ellerbe Telephone will work to maintain its network in order to keep it operating efficiently and to avoid problems from impacting customers.

## Universal Service Support Received

In 2015, Ellerbe received a total of high cost universal service support (USF). This was comprised of of Interstate Common Line Support (ICLS) support and of Connect America Fund Inter-carrier Compensation (ICC) support.

## Universal Service Support Uses and 5-Year Plan Progress

Ellerbe has been working on maintaining and upgrading its network in accordance with the principles of universal service. There were capital projects to place completed in 2015 that had a total of . More than on plant expenses to maintain the

network. More was spent in 2015 to improve and maintain the network than was received in USF support. All USF was used to improve and maintain service to customers. Support was used to help expand the deployment of .  
Support was also used to maintain the quality and reliability of the used by customers that receive .

The timing of some capital projects

Ellerbe will continually provide service as requested to new residential and business structures within its service territory. Ellerbe uses the USF it receives for general maintenance and to improve service quality, coverage and capacity of its .

### **Capital Expense**

The capital projects completed during 2015 were

because of  
uncertainty about the future.

As stated above, there have been some changes to the remaining capital projects on the initial 5-year plan and that is a normal part of operations and making adjustments.

### **Operating Expense**

During 2015, Ellerbe spent more on operating expenses than budgeted in the 5-year plan. Ellerbe expects that to occur in 2016 as well.

### **Maps**

A map of Ellerbe's service area is attached. Ellerbe Telephone currently is able to provide 4 mbps/1 mbps to customers. There are

### **Considerations**

The investment and service quality improvement plans discussed above were generated, in part, to meet or exceed the broadband public interest obligations adopted by the Commission:

- Speed - at least 4 mbps downstream and 1 mbps upstream
- Latency - 100mS or less, sufficient for real-time applications
- Capacity - Unlimited capacity per month
- As an RoR - regulated carrier, Ellerbe Telephone is required pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i) to provide broadband service at 4 mbps/1 mbps upon reasonable request and within a reasonable timeframe. Ellerbe Telephone currently is able to provide 4 mbps/1 mbps to customers now. Most customers are able to receive higher speeds upon request.
- Ellerbe Telephone determines into which parts of its network are feasible to upgrade and increase capacity by analyzing relevant factors such as population, demand, costs, likely revenues, regulatory requirements, and availability of work force and materials.

REDACTED -- FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Study Area Code  
Study Area Name

230478  
EllerbeTelephone Company

REDACTED -- FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

## PART A - PROJECT LIST FOR 2015-2019

[illegible]

Study Area Code 230478  
Study Area Name EllerbeTelephone Company

REDACTED -- FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

Part B: 5-Year Proposed Capital Expenditures and Operating Expenses

(1) Use the chart below to break out the regulated portion of the cost/expense on a per-year basis

Please note that the 5-Year Plan should include regulated plant/expenses only.

Regulated Capital Expenditure (CapEx) Projections								
Account	Description	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total Projected CapEx 2015-2019	2016 Status
2111 & 2121	Land & Building							
2112	Vehicles							
2122-2124	Support Assets							
2210	Switching Equipment							
2232	Circuit Equipment							
2410	Cable & Wire Facilities							
1220	Materials & Supplies							
	Total Capital Expenditures							

Regulated Operating Expenditure (OpEx) Projections								
Account	Operating Expenses	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Total Operating Expenses 2015- 2019	2016 Status
6110-6120	General Support Maintenance							
6210	Switching Maintenance							
6230	COE Transmission Maintenance							
6410	Cable & Wire Facilities							
6530	Non-Specific (Testing, Plant Op., Engineering)							
6561-2110	General Support Depreciation							
6561-2210	Switching Depreciation							
6561-2230	Circuit Equip Depreciation							
6561-2410	Cable & Wire Depreciation							
6610-6620	Customer Operations							
6711-6720	Corporate Operations							
7240	Ad Valorem Expense							
	Total Operating Expenses							

Ellerbe Telephone  
Service Quality Standards and Consumer Protection Rules Compliance Explanation  
Line 510

### Certification

Ellerbe Telephone Company certifies that it complies with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules for both voice services and broadband services.

### Service Quality

The North Carolina Utilities Commission (NCUC) has service quality rules in place. These service quality rules are found in NCUC Chapter 9, Rule R9-8. The NCUC does not have rules in place regarding broadband service quality. Ellerbe Telephone Company is regulated by the NCUC although the current form of regulation no longer requires Ellerbe to report results. Ellerbe continues to follow procedures put in place when it was required to meet and report on objectives.

Here is a link to Chapter 9 rules located on the NCUC website:

<http://www.ncuc.net/ncrules/Chapter09.pdf>

Rule R9-8 requires that certain service objectives be met and that company results be reported to the NCUC on a quarterly basis within 45 days after the end of each quarter. Ellerbe has established procedures and processes to meet Rule R9-8 objectives even though it is no longer required to report results to the NCUC.

The NCUC objectives are listed below:

### **Rule R9-8. Service objectives for regulated local exchange telephone companies and competing local providers (CLPs).**

(a) Service Objectives. Each regulated local exchange telephone company and CLP shall perform and provide service in accordance with the following uniform service objectives:

<i>Measure No.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Objective</i>
1	Intraoffice completion rate	99% or more
2	Interoffice completion rate	98% or more
3	EAS transmission loss	95% or more between 2 and 10 dB
4	EAS trunk noise	95% or more 30 dBrnc or less
5	Operator "0" answertime	90% or more of calls answered within 10 seconds or ASA of 6 seconds
6	Directory assistance answertime	85% or more of calls answered within 10 seconds or ASA of 6 seconds



7	Business office answertime	ASA of 30 seconds
8	Repair service answertime	ASA of 30 seconds
9	Initial customer trouble reports	4.75 or less per 100 total access lines
10	Repeat reports	1.0 report or less per 100 total access lines
11	Out-of-service troubles cleared within 24 Hours	95% or more
12	Regular service orders completed within 5 working days	90% or more
13	New service installation appointments not met for Company reasons	5% or less
14	New service held orders not completed within 30 days	0.1% or less of total access lines

### Consumer Protection

Ellerbe Telephone Company is committed to maintain the privacy of customer information. In addition to protecting personal information the company is obligated to protect information on how customers use their services. Ellerbe Telephone Company follows all requirements the FCC has mandated concerning Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI). As required, Ellerbe files annual CPNI compliance certifications with the FCC by March 1 each year.

Ellerbe Telephone Company also has an Identity Theft Prevention Program in place to comply with Red Flag Identity Theft prevention rules. This program ensures that no information pertaining to our customers is compromised and that information from new customers is accurate and does not represent a stolen identity.

There are no NCUC or state rules in place for broadband consumer protection. Ellerbe Telephone Company does follow federal laws relating to broadband service. Ellerbe Telephone Company does publicly disclose broadband terms and prices for customers.

Ellerbe Telephone  
Functionality in Emergency Situations  
Line 610

#### Backup/Emergency Power

Ellerbe Telephone's main Central Office has both battery backup and permanent mounted generator backup. When commercial power fails, batteries carry all central office equipment until the generator comes on within one minute of power failure. If the generator fails to come on, batteries can carry the central office for 12-16 hours.

One remote switch has both battery backup and permanent mounted generator backup. When commercial power fails, batteries carry all central office equipment until the generator comes on within one minute of power failure. If the generator fails to come on, batteries can carry the equipment for 16-18 hours.

One generator at the main Central Office is diesel powered and one is propane powered. The generator at the remote switch is propane powered. All three generators can run for 5-7 days on their fuel supply.

All small remote switches have battery backup that can carry the equipment for 6-10 hours in the event of commercial power failure. They also have ports where a portable generator will be connected to supply power to the remote. These portable generators are gasoline powered and can run for 4-6 hours on their fuel supply. During the event of an emergency, these portable generators are resupplied with fuel on a regular basis.

#### Network Facilities

Ellerbe is located in the Wilmington, NC LATA and connects to an AT&T Central Office in Rockingham, NC to connect to the Laurinburg, NC tandem. Ellerbe has redundant fiber facilities that connect to the Rockingham office that are on different geographic routes. During times of an emergency or damage to facilities, traffic is rerouted over redundant facilities as needed.

#### Priority Line Assignments

Ellerbe's Central Office switch is a Genband DMS-10. This switch is configured with a certain number "priority" line assignments in each line assignment group. Ellerbe assigns local municipal, fire, EMS, and rescue telephone numbers to these priority line assignment positions. Should the switch get in an overload status because of a traffic spike, it automatically prioritizes these positions to remain in service before non-priority line assignments.

REDACTED -- FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(710) Broadband Price Offerings  
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	230478
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<015>	Study Area Name	ELLERBE TEL CO
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<020>	Program Year	2017
-------	--------------	------

<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Jerry Weikle
-------	---	--------------

<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	7047827738 ext.
-------	---	-----------------

<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	jweikle@windstream.net
-------	---	------------------------

<711>	<a1>	<a2>	<b1>	<b2>	<c>	<d1>	<d2>	<d3>	<d4>
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[illegible]

Ellerbe Telephone  
Voice Services Rate Comparability  
Line 1010

The FCC released a Public Notice on April 5, 2016 (DA 16-362) which listed the urban average rate as \$21.93 for residential customers. The same Public Notice listed the rate that is a reasonably comparable benchmark at \$41.07.

Ellerbe Telephone charges all residential customers \$15.14 plus a federal Subscriber Line Charge of \$6.50 for monthly service with unlimited local calling. The total of these charges is \$21.64 which is less than the reasonably comparable benchmark of \$41.07.

Because of this, Ellerbe Telephone is able to certify that it's pricing of fixed voice service is no more than two standard deviations above the applicable national average urban rate for voice service.

Ellerbe Telephone  
Broadband Services Rate Comparability  
Line 1030

The FCC released a Public Notice on April 5, 2016 (DA 16-362) which listed broadband rate benchmarks for some broadband service offerings. The Notice stated that benchmark rates for other service offerings could be calculated using the FCC Reasonable Comparability Benchmark Calculator found at <http://www.fcc.gov/encyclopedia/urban-rate-survey-data>.

Ellerbe offers a 6/1 product with unlimited monthly usage. The FCC benchmark rate is calculated at \$73.54 which is higher than Ellerbe's rate of \$49.95. Ellerbe also offers a 10/1 product with unlimited monthly usage which was not listed in the Notice. The FCC benchmark rate is calculated at \$75.20 which is higher than Ellerbe's rate of \$59.95.

Ellerbe's pricing meets the Commission's broadband public interest obligations by not charging more than the benchmark rates.

Ellerbe Telephone  
Lifeline Terms and Conditions  
Line 1210

As a state regulated wireline carrier, Ellerbe Telephone offers Lifeline service in accordance with FCC rules and terms and conditions in its tariff. The terms and conditions of the tariff are included starting on the next page of this file.

#### Minutes of Use

Each Lifeline customer has unlimited local usage and is able to make local calls at no additional charge. Each Lifeline customer is also able to receive unlimited local and long distance calls at no additional charge.

#### Toll Charges

Each Lifeline customer is able to receive toll blocking to avoid incurring unexpected toll charges. In the event the customer would like to make toll calls then the customer is able to choose which long distance company they would like to use and then choose which rate plan is best for them.

REDACTED -- FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION  
**GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF**

ELLERBE  
TELEPHONE COMPANY

SECTION 3  
SIXTH REVISED PAGE 10  
CANCELING FIFTH REVISED PAGE 10

ISSUED: December 18, 2013  
EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2014

DOCKET NO. 2-100 SUB 133F  
Allowed To Become Effective Pursuant  
To G.S. 62-130 and G.S. 62-134

**S3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE**

**DEC 27 2013**

**S3.11 LIFELINE**

**S3.11.1 DESCRIPTION OF SERVICE**

**FILED**  
N.C. UTILITIES COMMISSION

- a. The Lifeline Program is designed to increase the availability of telecommunication services to low income subscribers by providing a credit to monthly recurring local service to qualifying residential subscribers. Basic terms and conditions are in compliance with the FCC's rules found in CFR § 54.410. Customers must be certified by the appropriate state agency that they participate in one of the following programs: Medicaid; Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps; Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8); Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP); National School Lunch Program's free lunch program; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); or, be able to provide proof of household income which is at or below 135% of the annual Federal Poverty Guidelines for all States. Such certification must be provided to the Company. Specific terms and conditions are as prescribed by the North Carolina Utilities Commission and are set forth in this Tariff.
- b. Lifeline is supported by federal and state universal support mechanisms.
- c. Federal baseline support of \$9.25 is available to each Lifeline Service and is passed through to the subscriber. The total Lifeline credit available to an eligible customer in North Carolina is \$9.25. The amount of credit will not exceed the charge for local service, which includes access line, touch tone service, the Subscriber line charge and local usage. (C)  
|  
(C)

**S3.11.2 REGULATIONS**

a. General

- (1)
- (2) One low income credit is available per household and is applicable to the primary residential connection only. The name subscriber must be a current recipient of the low income assistance programs as identified in Section 3.11.2b following.
- (3) A lifeline customer may subscribe to any local service offering available to other residential customers

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Feb 26 2014

# GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

ELLERBE  
TELEPHONE COMPANY

SECTION 3  
SECOND REVISED PAGE 11  
CANCELING FIRST REVISED PAGE 11

ISSUED: October 11, 2013  
BY: President

EFFECTIVE: October 11, 2013

## S3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

### S3.11 LIFELINE (Continued)

#### 3.11.2 REGULATIONS (Continued)

##### a. General (Continued)

- (4) Customized Code Restriction Option 2 as specified in Section 13.18.1e., and the Billed Number Screening as specified in Section 13.19 of this tariff, will be offered at no charge to the lifeline subscribers to establish toll blocking.
- (5) The deposit requirement is not applicable to a Lifeline customer who subscribes to toll blocking. If a Lifeline customer removes toll blocking prior to establishing an acceptable credit history, a deposit may be required.
- (6) A Lifeline subscriber's local service will not be disconnected for non-payment of regulated toll charges. Local service may be denied for non-payment of local calls in accordance with Section 2 of this Tariff. Access to toll service may be denied for non-payment of regulated tolls. In such cases Customized Code Restriction Option 2 and Billed Number Screening will be applied to the Lifeline Subscribers service at no charge. A lifeline subscriber's request for reconnection of local service will not be denied if the service was previously denied for non-payment of toll charges as long as all outstanding local charges are paid.
- (7) Partial payments made by customers will be applied first to local service charges, then to toll charges.
- (8) The presubscribed Interexchange Carrier Charge (PICC) will not be billed to Lifeline customers who subscribe to Customized Code Restriction Option 2 for toll blocking and who do not presubscribe to a long distance carrier.

##### b. Eligibility

- (1) To be eligible for a Lifeline credit, a customer must be a current recipient of any one of the following low income assistance programs.
  - (a) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
  - (b) Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

(C)  
(C)

DOCKET NO. P-100 SUB 133f  
Allowed To Become Effective Pursuant  
To G.S. 62-130 and G.S. 62-134

OCT 13 2013

**FILED**  
N.C. UTILITIES COMMISSION



GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

ELLERBE  
TELEPHONE COMPANY

SECTION 3  
THIRD REVISED PAGE 12  
CANCELING SECOND REVISED PAGE 12

ISSUED: October 11, 2013  
BY: President

EFFECTIVE: October 11, 2013

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S3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

S3.11 LIFELINE (Continued)

3.11.2 REGULATIONS (Continued)

b. Eligibility (Continued)

- (c) Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- (d) Medicaid
- (e) Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- (f) Federal Public Housing Assistance (Section 8)
- (g) National School Lunch Program's free lunch program; or
- (i) Provide proof of household income which is at or below 135% of the annual Federal Poverty Guidelines.

(C)

(C)

- (2) A standard application form will be available only from the agency administering the qualifying program and not from the Company. All applications are subject to verification with the state agency responsible for administration of the qualifying program.

c. Certification

- (1) Proof of eligibility in any of the qualifying programs should be provided to the Company at the time of application of service. The Lifeline credit will not be established until proof of eligibility has been received by the company. If the customer requests installation prior to the Company's receipt of proof of eligibility, the requested service will be provided without the Lifeline credit. When eligibility documentation is provided subsequent to installation, the Lifeline credit will be provided on a going forward basis.
- (2) The Company will audit its records every 12 months working in conjunction with the appropriate state or federal agencies, for the purpose of determining continuing eligibility. Information obtained during such audit will be treated as confidential information to the extent required under State and Federal laws. The use or disclosure of information concerning enrollees will be limited to purposes directly connected with the administration of the Lifeline plan.
- (3) When a customer is determined to be ineligible as a result of an audit, the Company will send the customer a written notice of ineligibility. If the customer cannot provide eligibility documentation, the Lifeline credit will be discontinued.

(C)

(C)

DOCKET NO. P-100 SUB 133f  
Allowed To Become Effective Pursuant  
To G.S. 62-130 and G.S. 62-134

OCT 13 2013

FILED  
N.C. UTILITIES COMMISSION

# GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF

REDACTED -- FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

SECTION 3

ELLERBE  
TELEPHONE COMPANY

SEVENTH REVISED PAGE 13

CANCELING SIXTH REVISED PAGE 13

ISSUED: December 18, 2013

EFFECTIVE DATE: January 1, 2014

## S3. BASIC LOCAL EXCHANGE SERVICE

### S3.11 LIFELINE (Continued)

#### 3.11.3 RATES AND CHARGES

##### a. General

- (1) Lifeline is provided as a monthly credit and the eligible residential subscriber's access line bill for local service.
- (2) Service Charges in section 4 are applicable for installing or changing Lifeline service.
- (3)
- (4) The secondary service Order Charge in section 4 is not applicable when existing service is converted intact to Lifeline.

##### b. The total Lifeline Credit consist of one federal.

(C)

##### (1) Federal Credit

Monthly  
Credit

##### (b) ALL PROGRAMS

\$9.25

##### (2)

(D)

(D)

DOCKET NO. P-100 SUB 133F  
Allowed To Become Effective Pursuant  
To G.S. 62-130 and G.S. 62-134

DEC 27 2013

**FILED**  
N.C. UTILITIES COMMISSION

OFFICIAL COPY

Feb 26 2014

Ellerbe Telephone  
Milestone Certification  
Line 3010

**Certification**

During 2015, Ellerbe Telephone Company certifies that it took reasonable steps to provide broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream and 1 Mbps upstream upon reasonable request. Because of improvements to the network, Ellerbe is able to provide higher speeds to many customers.

Services are provided with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol. Customers receive an unlimited capacity each month

<b>USDA-RUS</b>  <b>OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b>		<i>This data will be used by RUS to review your financial situation. Your response is required by 7 U.S.C. 901 et seq. and, subject to federal laws and regulations regarding confidential information, will be treated as confidential.</i> BORROWER NAME <b>REDACTED -- FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION</b> Ellerbe Telephone Company (Prepared with Audited Data)			
<i>INSTRUCTIONS-Submit report to RUS within 30 days after close of the period. For detailed instructions, see RUS Bulletin 1744-2. Report in whole dollars only.</i>		PERIOD ENDING December, 2015		BORROWER DESIGNATION NC0539	
<b>CERTIFICATION</b> We hereby certify that the entries in this report are in accordance with the accounts and other records of the system and reflect the status of the system to the best of our knowledge and belief. <b>ALL INSURANCE REQUIRED BY 7 CFR PART 1788, CHAPTER XVII, RUS, WAS IN FORCE DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD AND RENEWALS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED FOR ALL POLICIES.</b> <b>DURING THE PERIOD COVERED BY THIS REPORT PURSUANT TO PART 1788 OF 7CFR CHAPTER XVII</b> (Check one of the following)					
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All of the obligations under the RUS loan documents have been fulfilled in all material respects.                 </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <input type="checkbox"/> There has been a default in the fulfillment of the obligations under the RUS loan documents. Said default(s) is/are specifically described in the Telecom Operating Report                 </div> </div>					
6/28/2016 DATE					
<b>PART A. BALANCE SHEET</b>					
ASSETS	BALANCE PRIOR YEAR	BALANCE END OF PERIOD	LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY	BALANCE PRIOR YEAR	BALANCE END OF PERIOD
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
1. Cash and Equivalents			25. Accounts Payable		
2. Cash-RUS Construction Fund			26. Notes Payable		
3. Affiliates:			27. Advance Billings and Payments		
a. Telecom, Accounts Receivable			28. Customer Deposits		
b. Other Accounts Receivable			29. Current Mat. L/T Debt		
c. Notes Receivable			30. Current Mat. L/T Debt-Rur. Dev.		
4. Non-Affiliates:			31. Current Mat.-Capital Leases		
a. Telecom, Accounts Receivable			32. Income Taxes Accrued		
b. Other Accounts Receivable			33. Other Taxes Accrued		
c. Notes Receivable			34. Other Current Liabilities		
5. Interest and Dividends Receivable			35. Total Current Liabilities (25 thru 34)		
6. Material-Regulated			<b>LONG-TERM DEBT</b>		
7. Material-Nonregulated			36. Funded Debt-RUS Notes		
8. Prepayments			37. Funded Debt-RTB Notes		
9. Other Current Assets			38. Funded Debt-FFB Notes		
10. Total Current Assets (1 Thru 9)			39. Funded Debt-Other		
<b>NONCURRENT ASSETS</b>			40. Funded Debt-Rural Develop. Loan		
11. Investment in Affiliated Companies			41. Premium (Discount) on L/T Debt		
a. Rural Development			42. Recquired Debt		
b. Nonrural Development			43. Obligations Under Capital Lease		
12. Other Investments			44. Adv. From Affiliated Companies		
a. Rural Development			45. Other Long-Term Debt		
b. Nonrural Development			46. Total Long-Term Debt (36 thru 45)		
13. Nonregulated Investments			<b>OTHER LIAB. &amp; DEF. CREDITS</b>		
14. Other Noncurrent Assets			47. Other Long-Term Liabilities		
15. Deferred Charges			48. Other Deferred Credits		
16. Jurisdictional Differences			49. Other Jurisdictional Differences		
17. Total Noncurrent Assets (11 thru 16)			50. Total Other Liabilities and Deferred Credits (47 thru 49)		
<b>PLANT, PROPERTY, AND EQUIPMENT</b>			<b>EQUITY</b>		
18. Telecom, Plant-in-Service			51. Cap. Stock Outstand. & Subscribed		
19. Property Held for Future Use			52. Additional Paid-in-Capital		
20. Plant Under Construction			53. Treasury Stock		
21. Plant Adj., Nonop. Plant & Goodwill			54. Membership and Cap. Certificates		
22. Less Accumulated Depreciation			55. Other Capital		
23. Net Plant (18 thru 21 less 22)			56. Patronage Capital Credits		
24. TOTAL ASSETS (10+17+23)			57. Retained Earnings or Margins		
			58. Total Equity (51 thru 57)		
			59. TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY (35+46+50+58)		

Total Equity =                      of Total Assets

USDA-RUS  <b>OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b>		BORROWER DESIGNATION NC0539 <b>REDACTED -- FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION</b>	
INSTRUCTIONS- See RUS Bulletin 1744-2		PERIOD ENDING December, 2015	
<b>PART B. STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND RETAINED EARNINGS OR MARGINS</b>			
<b>ITEM</b>		<b>PRIOR YEAR</b>	<b>THIS YEAR</b>
1. Local Network Services Revenues			
2. Network Access Services Revenues			
3. Long Distance Network Services Revenues			
4. Carrier Billing and Collection Revenues			
5. Miscellaneous Revenues			
6. Uncollectible Revenues			
7. Net Operating Revenues (1 thru 5 less 6)			
8. Plant Specific Operations Expense			
9. Plant Nonspecific Operations Expense (Excluding Depreciation & Amortization)			
10. Depreciation Expense			
11. Amortization Expense			
12. Customer Operations Expense			
13. Corporate Operations Expense			
14. Total Operating Expenses (8 thru 13)			
15. Operating Income or Margins (7 less 14)			
16. Other Operating Income and Expenses			
17. State and Local Taxes			
18. Federal Income Taxes			
19. Other Taxes			
20. Total Operating Taxes (17+18+19)			
21. Net Operating Income or Margins (15+16-20)			
22. Interest on Funded Debt			
23. Interest Expense - Capital Leases			
24. Other Interest Expense			
25. Allowance for Funds Used During Construction			
26. Total Fixed Charges (22+23+24-25)			
27. Nonoperating Net Income			
28. Extraordinary Items			
29. Jurisdictional Differences			
30. Nonregulated Net Income			
31. Total Net Income or Margins (21+27+28+29+30-26)			
32. Total Taxes Based on Income			
33. Retained Earnings or Margins Beginning-of-Year			
34. Miscellaneous Credits Year-to-Date			
35. Dividends Declared (Common)			
36. Dividends Declared (Preferred)			
37. Other Debits Year-to-Date			
38. Transfers to Patronage Capital			
39. Retained Earnings or Margins End-of-Period [(31+33+34) - (35+36+37+38)]			
40. Patronage Capital Beginning-of-Year			
41. Transfers to Patronage Capital			
42. Patronage Capital Credits Retired			
43. Patronage Capital End-of-Year (40+41-42)			
44. Annual Debt Service Payments			
45. Cash Ratio [(14+20-10-11) / 7]			
46. Operating Accrual Ratio [(14+20+26) / 7]			
47. TIER [(31+26) / 26]			
48. DSCR [(31+26+10+11) / 44]			

<b>USDA-RUS</b>  <b>OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b>  <i>INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2</i>						<b>BORROWER DESIGNATION</b> NC0539  <b>PERIOD ENDED</b> December, 2015	
<b>Part C. SUBSCRIBER (ACCESS LINE), ROUTE MILE, &amp; HIGH SPEED DATA INFORMATION</b>							
	<b>1. RATES</b>		<b>2. SUBSCRIBERS (ACCESS LINES)</b>			<b>3. ROUTE MILES</b>	
<b>EXCHANGE</b>	<b>B-1</b>	<b>R-1</b>	<b>BUSINESS</b>	<b>RESIDENTIAL</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>TOTAL (including fiber)</b>	<b>FIBER</b>
	<b>(a)</b>	<b>(b)</b>	<b>(a)</b>	<b>(b)</b>	<b>(c)</b>	<b>(a)</b>	<b>(b)</b>
Elterbe							
MobileWireless							
Route Mileage Outside Exchange Area							
Total							
No. Exchanges							

USDA-RUS  <b>OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b>  <i>INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2</i>						BORROWER DESIGNATION NC0539  PERIOD ENDED December, 2015		
<b>Part C. SUBSCRIBER (ACCESS LINE), ROUTE MILE, &amp; HIGH SPEED DATA INFORMATION</b>								
<b>4. BROADBAND SERVICE</b>								
<b>Details on Least Expensive Broadband Service</b>								
EXCHANGE	No. Access Lines with BB available (a)	No Of Broadband Subscribers (b)	Number Of Subscribers (c)	Advertised Download Rate (Kbps) (d)	Advertised Upload Rate (Kbps) (e)	Price Per Month (f)	Standalone/Pckg (g)	Type Of Technology (h)
Ellerbe								
Total								

<b>USDA-RUS</b> <b>OPERATING REPORT FOR</b> <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b>			<b>BORROWER DESIGNATION</b> NC0539		
<b>INSTRUCTIONS- See RUS Bulletin 1744-2</b>			<b>PERIOD ENDING</b> December, 2015		
<b>PART D. SYSTEM DATA</b>					
1. No. Plant Employees	2. No. Other Employees	3. Square Miles Served	4. Access Lines per Square Mile	5. Subscribers per Route Mile	
<b>PART E. TOLL DATA</b>					
1. Study Area ID Code(s) a. _____ b. _____ c. _____ d. _____ e. _____ f. _____ g. _____ h. _____ i. _____ j. _____		2. Types of Toll Settlements (Check one) Interstate: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Average Schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Cost Basis Intrastate: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Average Schedule <input type="checkbox"/> Cost Basis			
<b>PART F. FUNDS INVESTED IN PLANT DURING YEAR</b>					
1. RUS, RTB, & FFB Loan Funds Expended					
2. Other Long-Term Loan Funds Expended					
3. Funds Expended Under RUS Interim Approval					
4. Other Short-Term Loan Funds Expended					
5. General Funds Expended (Other than Interim)					
6. Salvaged Materials					
7. Contribution in Aid to Construction					
8. Gross Additions to Telecom. Plant (1 thru 7)					
<b>PART G. INVESTMENTS IN AFFILIATED COMPANIES</b>					
INVESTMENTS  (a)	CURRENT YEAR DATA		CUMULATIVE DATA		
	Investment This Year (b)	Income/Loss This Year (c)	Cumulative Investment To Date (d)	Cumulative Income/Loss To Date (e)	Current Balance (f)
1. Investment in Affiliated Companies - Rural Development					
2. Investment in Affiliated Companies - Nonrural Development					



<b>USDA-RUS</b>  <b>OPERATING REPORT FOR</b> <b>TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b>	<b>BORROWER DESIGNATION</b> NC0539 <hr/> <b>PERIOD ENDING</b> December, 2015
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**PART H. CURRENT DEPRECIATION RATES**

Are corporation's depreciation rates approved by the regulatory authority with jurisdiction over the provision of telephone services? (Check one)

☒ YES
☐ NO

EQUIPMENT CATEGORY	DEPRECIATION RATE
1. Land and support assets - Motor Vehicles	
2. Land and support assets - Aircraft	
3. Land and support assets - Special purpose vehicles	
4. Land and support assets - Garage and other work equipment	
5. Land and support assets - Buildings	
6. Land and support assets - Furniture and Office equipment	
7. Land and support assets - General purpose computers	
8. Central Office Switching - Digital	
9. Central Office Switching - Analog & Electro-mechanical	
10. Central Office Switching - Operator Systems	
11. Central Office Transmission - Radio Systems	
12. Central Office Transmission - Circuit equipment	
13. Information origination/termination - Station apparatus	
14. Information origination/termination - Customer premises wiring	
15. Information origination/termination - Large private branch exchanges	
16. Information origination/termination - Public telephone terminal equipment	
17. Information origination/termination - Other terminal equipment	
18. Cable and wire facilities - Poles	
19. Cable and wire facilities - Aerial cable - Metal	
20. Cable and wire facilities - Aerial cable - Fiber	
21. Cable and wire facilities - Underground cable - Metal	
22. Cable and wire facilities - Underground cable - Fiber	
23. Cable and wire facilities - Buried cable - Metal	
24. Cable and wire facilities - Buried cable - Fiber	
25. Cable and wire facilities - Conduit systems	
26. Cable and wire facilities - Other	

USDA-RUS  <b>OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b>	BORROWER DESIGNATION NC0539  PERIOD ENDED December, 2015
INSTRUCTIONS – See help in the online application.	
<b>PART I – STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS</b>	
1. Beginning Cash (Cash and Equivalents plus RUS Construction Fund)	
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>	
2. Net Income	
<i>Adjustments to Reconcile Net Income to Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities</i>	
3. Add: Depreciation	
4. Add: Amortization	
5. Other (Explain)	
<b>Changes in Operating Assets and Liabilities</b>	
6. Decrease/(Increase) in Accounts Receivable	
7. Decrease/(Increase) in Materials and Inventory	
8. Decrease/(Increase) in Prepayments and Deferred Charges	
9. Decrease/(Increase) in Other Current Assets	
10. Increase/(Decrease) in Accounts Payable	
11. Increase/(Decrease) in Advance Billings & Payments	
12. Increase/(Decrease) in Other Current Liabilities	
13. Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Operations	
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>	
14. Decrease/(Increase) in Notes Receivable	
15. Increase/(Decrease) in Notes Payable	
16. Increase/(Decrease) in Customer Deposits	
17. Net Increase/(Decrease) in Long Term Debt (Including Current Maturities)	
18. Increase/(Decrease) in Other Liabilities & Deferred Credits	
19. Increase/(Decrease) in Capital Stock, Paid-in Capital, Membership and Capital Certificates & Other Capital	
20. Less: Payment of Dividends	
21. Less: Patronage Capital Credits Retired	
22. Other (Explain)	
23. Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Financing Activities	
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>	
24. Net Capital Expenditures (Property, Plant & Equipment)	
25. Other Long-Term Investments	
26. Other Noncurrent Assets & Jurisdictional Differences	
27. Other (Explain) Salvages	
28. Net Cash Provided/(Used) by Investing Activities	
29. Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash	
30. Ending Cash	

<p>USDA-RUS</p> <p><b>OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b></p>	<p>BORROWER DESIGNATION</p> <p>NC0539</p>
<p>INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2</p>	<p>PERIOD ENDED</p> <p>December, 2015</p>
<p><b>NOTES TO THE OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b></p>	

REDACTED -- FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

USDA-RUS  <b>OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b>	BORROWER DESIGNATION  NC0539
INSTRUCTIONS - See RUS Bulletin 1744-2	PERIOD ENDED December, 2015
<b>CERTIFICATION LOAN DEFAULT NOTES TO THE OPERATING REPORT FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS BORROWERS</b>	

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**

To the Board of Directors of  
Ellerbe Telephone Company and Subsidiary  
Ellerbe, North Carolina

***Report on the Financial Statements***

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Ellerbe Telephone Company and Subsidiary (the "Company") as of December 31, 2015 and 2014, and the related consolidated statements of stockholder's equity, income, comprehensive income, and cash flows for the years then ended and the related notes to the financial statements.

***Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements***

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

***Auditor's Responsibility***

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these consolidated financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Opinion**

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Ellerbe Telephone Company and Subsidiary as of December 31, 2015 and 2014 and the results of their operations and their cash flows for the years then ended, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

**Other Matters**

**Other information**

Our audits were conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the basic financial statements taken as a whole. The accompanying supplemental schedules on pages 23 through 25 are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The supplementary schedules are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, based on our audit, the supplementary schedules are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

**Other Reporting Required by *Governmental Auditing Standards***

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued a report dated May 17, 2016 on our consideration of Ellerbe Telephone Company and Subsidiary's internal controls over financial reporting and our tests of compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering Ellerbe Telephone Company and Subsidiary's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.



Eddie Carrick, CPA PC  
Lexington, North Carolina

May 17, 2016